

**To:** Kluesner, Dave[kluesner.dave@epa.gov]  
**From:** Russo, Rebecca  
**Sent:** Tue 8/18/2015 3:43:49 PM  
**Subject:** For your review

Hi Dave,

I put together notes and follow-ups from your meeting with Representative Tipton. Would you mind reviewing to ensure I captured everything correctly? My RA wants this and wants to also send it to Laura Vaught.

Thanks!

Notes from 8/17/15 Meeting between Representative Scott Tipton, Darlene Marcus of his staff, David Ostrander, EPA Gold King Mine Response Area Commander, and David Kluesner, EPA Gold King Mine Response Deputy Community Involvement Coordinator (is that right?)

Overall, Representative Tipton's tone was pleasant and it was a positive meeting. Representative Tipton's office is overall pleased with their coordination with EPA and their relationship with Region 8 RCL, Rebecca Russo. While they expressed concerns about the initial 24 hour lag in notifications by EPA, they are encouraged by our outreach since that time.

David Ostrander provided a general update of what has been happening at the site. Representative Tipton's office raised several issues, concerns and questions, which are outlined below from the congressional inquiry table.

Representative Tipton raised some questions about the Form 95 claim, which were answered by the EPA Release Update EMail on 8/17/15 sent to all congressional contacts, and again specifically answered in a separate email by Rebecca Russo on 8/18/15. This is reflected in the last row of the table. They also offered help to EPA in improving Form 95.

They informed EPA that Representatives Fred Upton and Rob Bishop would be scheduling hearings after Labor Day.

## Follow-ups Needed:

Priority:		Related		to		Request		Notes	
1 = 24-48		Request		Request		for		Response	
Request #		Initial Inquiry		Question		#			
2=3-5 days		General Subject(s)		Requestor Sent to:					
3=7-10 days									
New 1	Timeline of Notifications	R. Russo / D. Kluesner	Representative Tipton / from 8/17 meeting	Why was there a 24 hour lag in notifications?		5	IC		
New 2	D.W. Wells	R. Russo / D. Kluesner	Representative Tipton / from 8/17 meeting	Update on the sporadic exceedances on some DW wells.		IC		We don't have a baseline for these wells. They were not previously tested for the same contaminants.	
New 3	N/A until more info.	R. Russo / D. Kluesner	Representative Tipton / from 8/17 meeting	Ask Darlene if she ever received any additional information on the surface water sample (potentially a pond) with a pH of 9.				We do not have enough information to follow-up on this one, but will need more information from Rep. Tipton's office.	
New 4	Photos / Videos	R. Russo / D. Kluesner	Representative Tipton / from 8/17 meeting	Video at the time of release		17	IC		
New 5	Other Mining Sites	R. Russo / D. Kluesner	Representative Tipton / from 8/17 meeting	What other mining sites are we involved with and do we know about the volume of water in them					
New 6	Timeline of Event / What exactly happened and when	R. Russo / D. Kluesner	Representative Tipton / from 8/17 meeting	They want additional information explaining how we went into the mine (e.g., from the portal, the top, or the very top.		12 ; new IC 7		Will probably be in the timeline. If not, should be added.	


New 7	Timeline of Event / What exactly happened and when	R. Russo / D. Kluesner	Representative Tipton Was there a phone at 12 ; the site? If not why new IC meeting not? 6	Will probably be in the timeline. If not, should be added.
New 8	Long- Term Planning	R. Russo / D. Kluesner	Representative Tipton Specifically, what will IC from 8/17 happen during the meeting winter months?	What is EPA's long- term plan for the site?

RESPONSE:

La Plata County, with the assistance of the Colorado Department of Local Affairs (DoLA), and with the cooperation of local, state and federal agencies, will open a Recovery Center in Durango on Tuesday, August 18 and Wednesday, August 19 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the east end of the La Plata County Fairgrounds Exhibit Hall, Main Avenue, Durango Colorado. Staff from local, state and federal agencies noted below will be available to answer questions regarding financial and/or technical assistance related to the Animas River - Gold King Mine release. If you believe that you have suffered an economic loss related to the event, or if

33	1	Claims R. Russo	Representative Tipton's It is my understanding staff: that the Form 95 is for Darlene personal loss. Does it Marcus cover business lost as well?
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you have questions related to water quality, crops or livestock, individuals will be on hand to offer information and/or assistance. Services will be directed toward La Plata County businesses, employees and landowners who have been affected by the Gold King Mine release, and will include:  
Environmental Protection Agency-Assistance with Form 95 Claims for Damage for questions concerning loss of income or business.

Rebecca A. Russo

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